

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, delete the paragraph beginning on line 22 and continuing through line 24.

Page 5, lines 6 through 13, replace the paragraph as follows:

--In one ~~advantageous exemplified~~ embodiment of the spinal column support system in accordance with the invention, the bone screws are formed in a multi-axial manner and an ~~adjusting~~ clamping screw forming the upper part of on the bone screw is coupled to the bone screw via a ball bearing system. The clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw is always inserted into the plate system in a perpendicular manner, wherein the clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw can be inserted by freely attaching the upper and lower circular disks in a force-free manner. By tightening the nuts, the entire system can be coupled and adapted in a force-free manner to the vertebrae to be supported and attached.--

Page 5, line 26 through page 6, line 10, replace the paragraph as follows:

--A preferred embodiment of the invention is characterized in that the support plate is assembled from modularly identical functional units. This means that according to the number of vertebrae to be supported, the plate can be extended by identical units. This produces a very stable form with zones acting in a defined resilient

manner. The plate elements are formed such that the shape of the openings with their inner-lying support ring receive the upper round disk and the lower round thicker disk and can be arbitrarily displaced and positioned therein. By rotating the lower disk (followed by the upper disk), the conical hole located therein can be freely positioned in order to insert the clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw. When the nut is tightened, the spherical head of the bone screw as well as the upper plate and the lower plate are fixedly clamped to the inner-lying support ring. The lower and upper disks can then no longer be displaced. The bone screw is likewise attached, wherein the spherical coupling element between the bone screw and clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw is locked by inserting the clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw into the conical bore of the lower disk.--

Page 7, line 26 through page 8, line 8, replace the paragraph as follows:

--A bone screw 16 having an upper part 18 and a lower part 20 that is formed in a moveable manner with respect to the upper part is guided through the holes 10, 12 and is attached, i.e., fixedly screwed in the region of the upper part. The upper part of the bone screw 16 is formed as an clamping ~~adjusting~~ screw 18 with an adjusting body 18a in the illustrated exemplified embodiment. The lower part of the bone screw 16 is the actual bone screw shaft 20. On the upper end, the bone screw shaft is provided with a spherical head 22 that is accommodated in the adjusting body 18a in a

rotationally movable manner. A nut 24 serves to attach the arrangement, which nut on the one hand fixedly secures the spherical head 22 in the adjusting body 18a and on the other hand fixedly secures the two disks 6, 8 in the plate 4.--